



Tri-Party Agreement

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Cleanup Along the Columbia River... What does this Mean?

U.S. Department of Energy • U.S. Environmental Protection Agency • Washington State Department of Ecology

Your Input is Needed on the 100 Area Cleanup Projects.

With cleanup of the 100 Area waste sites underway, the Tri-Party Agencies are holding public forums in Portland and Hood River to discuss:

- How the cleanup is proceeding.
- Major risks impacting the cleanup.
- Are any changes needed in the cleanup to uphold public values.

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Cleanup of Hanford's 100 Area is the topic of two public forums to be held August 24 in Portland and August 25 in Hood River. The public forums will focus on how the cleanup standards were set for the 100 Area using EPA guidance and laws of the State of Washington. You will hear how these regulations and standards are applied and implemented, and how the "rural residential exposure scenario" drives the amount of cleanup required.

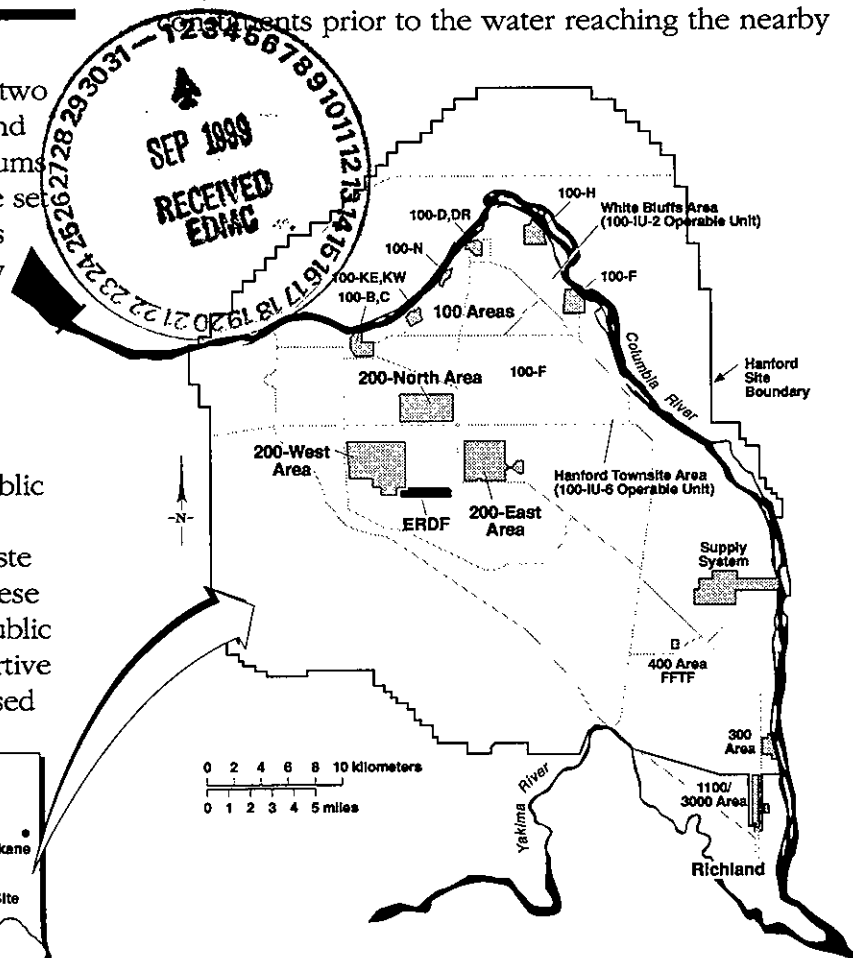
The Tri-Party Agencies recently completed public comment on a cleanup plan (The 100 Area Remaining Sites) for several hundred soil waste sites in the 100 Area of the Hanford Site. These public forums are being held in response to public comment. While the comments were supportive of the cleanup approach, several citizens advised the agencies that there was a need to further explain what cleanup of the 100 Area really means.



Background

Hanford's 100 Area is located along the banks of the Columbia River and includes the site's nine decommissioned nuclear reactors, which produced plutonium for the United States defense from 1943 to 1987. The last of these reactors was fully deactivated in 1998.

During plutonium production, large amounts of contaminated cooling water was discharged to the soil, which filtered out some of the radioactive components prior to the water reaching the nearby



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Columbia River. Such unpermitted discharges to the soil ended in 1996, but left several hundred waste sites in the Hanford's 100 Area that have to be cleaned up.

Cleanup Levels

Two of the key questions surrounding Hanford Site cleanup are what the intended future use of a particular area might be, and how that potential use factors into cleanup decisions. In 1992, the Tri-Party Agencies convened a group of citizens to develop potential future uses for Hanford Site lands. The group's recommendations varied widely depending on the area in question. For the 100 Area, the group advocated that cleanup be pursued to the degree that no potential future use would be precluded. That goal was reflected the 1995 Superfund Record of Decision (ROD) establishing the cleanup framework for the 100 Area.

The ROD specified that soil from the waste sites would be excavated and taken to the Environmental Restoration Disposal Facility on Hanford's central plateau. Several large waste sites have already been completed successfully. The recent Record of Decision for the 100 Area's

100 Area Cleanup Public Forums

Tuesday, August 24, 1999

Oregon State Office Building
800 NE Oregon, Room 140B
Portland, Oregon
7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, August 25, 1999

Hood River Hotel
102 Oak Avenue
Hood River, Oregon
7:00 p.m.

***Plenty of time has been scheduled
for discussion and questions.***

For more information, please call Dennis Faulk,
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remaining sites has designated that this same cleanup standard be applied to the rest of the waste sites in the area.

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